

**Minutes of the
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium
Meeting of September 27, 2017**

East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas Winker on September 27, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at the Ozaukee County Administration Center Auditorium, Room 6 (ground level), 121 W. Main Street, Port Washington, Wisconsin.

Certification of Public Notice: Kimberly A. Nass certified that the notice of this meeting complies with all applicable requirements of Wisconsin's open meetings law.

Roll call was taken.

Present: Russell Kottke and Harold Johnson, Dodge County; Joseph Koch and Karen Madigan, Fond du Lac County; Thomas E. Winker, Ozaukee County; Richard Bemis, Jim Glavan, and Mark Winkel, Sheboygan County; Dan Goetz and Jeff Schleif, Washington County; and Joel Rasmussen, Winnebago County.

Excused: James E. Foley, Columbia County; Dennis Mulder and Vicki Bernhagen, Green Lake County; Steve F. Taylor, Milwaukee County; Donald Dohrwardt, Ozaukee County; and, Larry Smith, Winnebago County.

Others Present: Ken Lucht, WSOR; Rich Kedzior, WisDOT; Don Pohlman, Mayor for the City of Plymouth; Kimberly A. Nass, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and, Kelly L. Lepple, Recording Secretary.

Public Comment: EWCRC Member, Dan Goetz, read in a letter from Paul Bangart of Solid Products, Inc., and a letter from Wolf Strohwig of Strohwig Industries, Inc., regarding railroad signals at Mayfield Road in Richfield.

Don Pohlman, Mayor of the City of Plymouth, thanked everyone on the EWCRC for its interest in the railroad and freight rail.

Approval of Minutes of May 10, 2017: Motion by Bemis/Schleif to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2017 meeting, as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Financial Report: Russell Kottke reported the following: The balance in the checkbook as of March 31, 2017, was \$1,000. Deposits were \$5,201.21. There were no expenditures. Transfers were \$5,201.21. As of August 31, 2017, the balance in the checkbook was \$1,000. Total EWCRC money on deposit in the Local Government Investment Pool as of August 31, 2017, is \$624,201.74. Motion by Rasmussen/Bemis to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, discuss, and take action on the level of funding by member counties for 2018: There was consideration of and discussion about the level of funding for member counties for 2018. Motion by Rasmussen/Madigan that the Board of Directors of the EWCRC recommend to each member county that each member county budget \$25,000 for its 2018 member county contribution to

the EWCRC. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, discuss, and take action on Report of WisDOT, Railroads and Harbors: Rich Kedzior made the following oral report: The Governor signed the budget for the 2017-2019 Fiscal Biennium and approved \$12 million of bonding authority for the Freight Railroad Preservation Program. WisDOT has a couple of personnel changes. David Simon, Chief, Railroad and Harbors Section, was promoted to the Director, WisDOT Bureau of Transit, Local Road, Railroads and Harbors; and, Lisa Stern, Railroad Engineering and Safety Supervisor, was promoted to Chief, Railroad and Harbors Section. Country Visions Cooperative received approximately a \$2.6 million Freight Railroad Infrastructure Improvement loan to construct approximately 3,000 feet of railroad spur tracks and a railcar unloading system as part of a new \$11 million dry fertilizer plant facility in Plymouth.

Reminder of 2017 WisDOT Annual Freight Railroad Conference, scheduled for October 31, 2017: The 2017 WisDOT Annual Freight Railroad Conference will be held on Tuesday, October 31, 2017, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Presentation by Ken Lucht regarding WSOR: Ken Lucht gave an oral report regarding an overview of WSOR's public/private partnership with the East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium. Ken Lucht summarized WSOR's capital expenditures in the Northern Division, described the many rehabilitation projects that are included in WSOR's capital expenditures, and stated the sources of funding for each project. Ken Lucht also reported that the Surface Transportation Board denied the Great Basin proposal, Freight Rail Preservation Program funding has decreased drastically for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium, provided an overview of WATCO, WSOR's parent company, and how it provides an extensive safety-training program for its employees, and WSOR has not had a track derailment in the past 18 months.

Consider, discuss, and take action on report of WSOR: Ken Lucht reported the following: This fall and winter, WSOR will be working on bridge repairs on the Cambria Subdivision. WSOR will soon begin installing approximately 10,400 ties on the Oshkosh Subdivision, between Ripon and Oshkosh, to prepare for the installation of continuous welded rail. WSOR recently finished rebuilding and resurfacing the crossing at Pilgrim Road in Germantown. WSOR has finished replacing the crossing at CTH E in Horicon. This fall, WSOR will start rebuilding the crossing at Billard Road in Milwaukee.

The Brandon to Ripon Phase I rehabilitation project will be underway this year. In 2017, WSOR will be ordering approximately 7.5 miles of continuous welded rail as well as the turnouts. In 2018, WSOR will start installing the new 115-pound continuous welded rail, reconstruct seven public at-grade crossings, and replace 13 turnouts. The EWCRC is contributing its 2016 and 2017 member county contributions to this rehabilitation project. The EWCRC should expect its first invoice from WSOR for this rehabilitation project by the end of this year.

Country Visions located on the Sheboygan Falls Subdivision, in Plymouth, will be building a new track in the next couple of weeks. WSOR has approved the track design. This fall, Country Visions will build the new track and shipping will take place shortly thereafter.

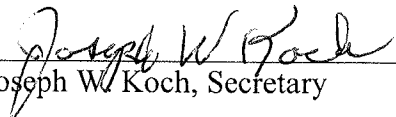
WSOR has a few potential customers interested in building in the Sheboygan Falls industrial park and a few potential customers interested in building in Plymouth.

Date, time, and place of next meeting (November 8, 2017): The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on November 8, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. Sheboygan County will host the meeting.

Motion by Bemis/^{.....}_{Schleif} to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph W. Koch, Secretary

Disclaimer: These are draft minutes. These draft minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next meeting of the East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium.